

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 110622Z JAN 74  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2320  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU  
NAVCOMSTA H E HOLT  
SECDEFWASHDC  
CNO WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC  
USAF WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US  
SUBJ: FAVORABLE AUSTRALIAN REACTION  
TO BARNARD'S NEGOTIATIONS

REF: CANBERRA 0105

1. SUMMARY: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, AUSTRALIAN MEDIA REPORTS OF BARNARD NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHWEST CAPE STATION ARE POSITIVE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE. EDITORIAL COVERAGE IN GENERAL REFLECTS CONVICTION THAT BARNARD ACHIEVED BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS FROM THIS NEGOTIATION AND THAT AUSTRALIAN CONCERNS ABOUT NWC HAVE BEEN FULLY COVERED. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT FULL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS BARNARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT TIME COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED.

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END SUMMARY.

2. MOST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRY FRONT PAGE STORIES AND SEVERAL HAVE EDITORIALS ABOUT NWC NEGOTIATIONS. MOST OF THEM DESCRIBE BARNARD'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON AS SUCCESSFUL IN MEETING MAJOR AUSTRALIAN CONCERNS AS EXPRESSED BY BARNARD HIMSELF IN PARLIAMENT, FEBRUARY, 1973. IN ADDITION TO REPORTED NUMBER OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN TO BE STATONED AT NWC INCLUDING DEPUTY COMMANDER, EMPHASIS IS UPON US - AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT TO CONSULT IN TIMES OF DEFENSE EMERGENCY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ROLE OF NWC IN SUCH EMERGENCIES. NEWS STORIES ALSO REPORT USG "GUARANTEE" TO INFORM AUSTRALIA IN ADVANCE OF CALLING WORLD-WIDE ALERT SIMILAR TO ALERT CALLED IN OCTOBER, 1973.

3. BARNARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE. SEVERAL PAPERS POINTED OUT BARNARD'S STATEMENT THAT MONITORING US MESSAGES THRU NWC STATION IS "IMPRACTICAL" AND THAT BARNARD STRESSED IN THIS CONTEXT THAT NWC IS RELAY STATION. NEWSPAPERS REPORT BARNARD ARGUMENT THAT SINCE NWC IS RELAY STATION, THAT IT FOLLOWS THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS ACHIEVED FROM AUSTRALIAN VIEWPOINT IN GAINING JOINT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THIS STATION.

4. FEW CRITICAL ARTICLES ON NEGOTIATIONS MAKE MUCH OF FACT THAT AUSTRALIA STILL UNABLE TO "CONTROL" U.S. MESSAGE TRAFFIC AND POINT OUT COSTS INVOLVED IN GREATER AUSTRALIAN USE OF STATION THROUGH STATIONING OF ABOUT 35 PERSONNEL, AND THEIR DECISION TO ESTABLISH SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATION STATIONS INVOLVING ABOUT 15 PERSONNEL. ESTIMATED COST TO GOA ACCORDING TO PAPERS IS AROUND AUSTRALIAN \$20 MILLION. ONE NEWS STORY, IN ADDITION, DESCRIBES RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS AS AUSTRALIAN COMMITMENT TO "NUCLEAR BALANCE OF TERROR".

5. COMMENT BY OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN MILD AND CAUTIOUS. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT BARNARD APPARENTLY DID NOT RECEIVE "JOINT CONTROL", OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN LAUD RESULTS AS REAFFIRMATION OF AUSTRALIAN COMMITMENT TO ANZUS ALLIANCE.

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6. ASKED FOR HIS OPINION, ALP LEFT-WING REPRESENTATIVE, BILL HARTLEY, REITERATED POSITION HE ADVANCED A FEW DAYS AGO THAT LEFT-WING MOVEMENT IS NOT TERRIBLY CONCERNED ABOUT INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA, BUT ARE, IN EFFECT, PRESSING FOR AUSTRALIA CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF ANZUS, THE BASES THEMSELVES WOULD DISAPPEAR. HARTLEY MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT NEITHER HE NOR

ANYONE ELSE EXPECTED INTERNAL LABOR PARTY DISSENTION  
OVER THE RESULTS OF BARNARD'S WASHINGTON TALKS.  
ASSUMPTION IS, THEREFORE, THAT ALP LEFT-WING WILL  
NOT PURSUE ITS CRITICISMS OF INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES.

7. COMMENT: AS INITIAL REACTION TO OUTCOME OF  
WASHINGTON TALKS, AUSTRALIAN OPINION APPEARS TO JUSTIFY  
CARE WITH WHICH ADOD AND BARNARD PREPARED  
AUSTRALIAN POSITION FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS  
NO INDICATION THAT GOA SHOULD PURSUE FURTHER USG CONCES-  
SIONS WITH REGARD EITHER TO NWC STATION OR TO TWO JOINT  
FACILITIES AT PINE GAP AND WOOMERA. NEWS COVERAGE OF  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOA WOULD TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF  
USAF INSTALLATIONS AT AMBERLEY AND ALICE SPRINGS WAS  
SPARSE AND FACTUAL. WE EXPECT MORE FAVORABLE PUBLI-  
CITY CAN BE OBTAINED WHEN DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT OF THESE TWO LATTER FACILITIES  
CAN BE MADE PUBLIC. COMBINATION OF HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION  
PAID TO BARNARD AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NWC  
NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PROJECTING NEW IMAGE  
OF SINCERE AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS US-AUSTRALIAN  
RELATIONSHIP.  
HARROP

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## Message Attributes

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